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A Tribute to Professor Nina Miley

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LAW SCHOOL NEWS

College of Law: On March 2, 2004, the University of Oklahoma College of Law unveiled its new Pro Bono Referral Program. The referral program is designed to match law student volunteers with specific opportunities for law-related pro bono work under supervising licensed attorneys. The College of Law is committed to creating a greater awareness among law students of their ethical responsibility for public service, providing legal services to the disadvantaged, and making access to justice a reality for the underserved population of Oklahoma.

Civil rights activist and long-time Oklahoma City resident Clara Luper headlined an evening devoted to the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The topic, "Moving Forward: Reflections of the Past, Visions of the Future," provided an opportunity for Ms. Luper to speak of the difficulties presented by integrating the University of Oklahoma and the College of Law in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Advocacy competition teams received many awards this year, with teams competing in more than ten moot court competitions. Two teams from the College of Law won their regional competitions, two teams placed second in their regional competitions, two teams had the best speaker in their regional competitions, and one team had the outstanding speaker in the nation at its competition. For the first time, three College of Law teams were eligible to have their briefs submitted to the national brief writing competition sponsored by the Scribes, the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects. In July of 2004, the Scribes named one of the College of Law's ABA moot court teams the recipient of its national best brief award.

Faculty and Administration: Associate Professor Mary Sue Backus joined the faculty of the College of Law in 2004 after a semester as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at William and Mary School of Law, where she taught evidence and a seminar on indigent defense systems. Professor Backus, who graduated first in her law school class at William and Mary, was selected as a member of the Order of the Coif and the Order of the Barristers. She served as Senior Notes Editor of the *William and Mary Law Review*, on the staff of the *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal*, and competed on the school's national moot court team. Professor Backus also received the Margaret Thatcher Prize for Excellence in Graduate Studies, awarded by William and Mary to its outstanding graduate student, and the Lawrence W. I'Anson Award, awarded by the law faculty of William and Mary. Professor Backus began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable H. Emory Widener of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she joined the Washington, D.C. firm of Covington & Burling, where her practice focused on product liability litigation and regulatory matters. In addition, Professor Backus provided pro bono assistance on custody and education matters and systematic reform of indigent defense

systems. She is a member of both the Virginia and the District of Columbia Bars and currently teaches torts and evidence.

Returning to the College of Law this fall is the Hugh Roff Professor of Law, Peter B Kutner. Professor Kutner received a Fulbright Lectureship in Japan at Waseda University and Japan Women's University in 2003-04. Professor Kutner joined the College of Law faculty in 1975. He currently teaches torts, advanced torts, and comparative law.

Associate Professor Steven S. Gensler returns to the College of Law this fall after serving as a Supreme Court Fellow at the Administrative Office in Washington, D.C. during 2003-04. He joined the College of Law faculty in 2000 after teaching for two years as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. Professor Gensler teaches civil procedure, conflict of laws, and federal courts.

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